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"Nothing is more clearly written in the Book of Destiny, than the Emancipation of the Blacks; and it is equally certain that the two races will never live in a state of equal freedom under the same government, so insurmountable are the barriers which nature, habit and opinion have established between them." JEFFERSON.

THE "JOHN SEYS"—"BRITISH AGGRESSION," &c. &c.

THERE is great anxiety pervading the public mind throughout the Union to hear the result of the seizure of this vessel by a British cruiser, indicating how deep and universal is the interest of the American people in the welfare of these colonies. In fact, we are almost glad the occurrence took place. Almost every newspaper throughout the country has published an account of the transaction, with comments more or less severe upon the conduct of the cruiser, and the official communication of Com. Jones to Gov. Roberts. The changes are wrung upon British rapacity and British aggression, until even the politicians of the day are almost disposed to make an Eastern "Oregon question" of it. Those who heretofore scouted the colonization scheme as a humbug and impracticable, seem now almost disposed to make the seizure of the John Seys a national affair, and to adopt the heretofore neglected colonies of Liberia as our legitimate children. This is rather more than we asked for, 'tis being "a little more than kin and less than kind." We as little want protection from the American as the English Government. LET LIBERIA FOREVER BE FREE—is, and shall be—our motto.

If the American press would do any thing for Liberia, let it urge upon our Government the recognition of the "COMMONWEALTH OF LIBERIA" AS A FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATE. Let the American Government do this, and Great Britain will not be slow to follow the example. So far as we can understand the official letter of Commodore Jones, which is thought to be the production of the British minister, it points to this very thing. That paper expresses the strongest sympathy for the colony, manifests a disposition to aid in its advancement, "recognizes the rights of property on that coast as they may appear to be acquired by purchases," but it does not recognize, in Liberia, A SOVEREIGN STATE! And why? Because "Liberia is not recognized as a subsisting State, even by the Government of the country from which its settlers have emigrated."

As to the seizure of the "John Seys," it is much to be regretted, as it will unquestionably prove a very serious loss to Mr. Benson, the owner, a very

estimable man; but it was doubtless the freak of a newly arrived lieutenant, a green-horn, anxious to distinguish himself in *prize* fighting. The next we shall hear is, that the vessel has been returned and full satisfaction made for property destroyed. But we wait with some anxiety for the next arrival.

LATEST FROM CAPE PALMAS.

The following extract from Governor Russwurm's letter of the 9th of June is the latest news we have received from the colonies. We have deferred the issuing of our present number until the very last days of the month, in hopes of receiving farther advices.

"Daily we see that the opening of the Barrakah and Denah road is destined to be a great blessing to the colony. From it, during another season, I shall expect to receive quantities of camwood as well as palm oil.

As recent as my visit to Denah is, the natives now begin to bring camwood to the beach by the Cavally; and at Mt. Tubman Factory we have the promise from the Denah people of it by land as soon as the paths are better.

You will be glad to learn that the war which has been raging between the Grahways and Half Cavallys is ended; though they pass not by each other for fear of witch palaver. The result of the war is the burning of Grahway and Baphro's towns, and the killing of about 150 men. Will Gray was the prime instigator of all the mischief, I believe.

We have had two visits from Commodore Skinner and two other vessels of his squadron. He appears to be interested in the welfare of the colonies, and thinks there ought to be a depot at Cape Palmas. He has the power, why does he not establish one?

The Chipola emigrants have passed through the fever, but are now suffering from chills. The deaths are one man and one infant—neither from fever, I believe. Those with families are all located on their farm lots, except Mr. Gross and his father, who have town lots.

The revenue laws are now in full force, but we experience difficulty in not having a paper currency, redeemable in gold and camwood, for circulation. The duties are now paid in specie and camwood. We have a prospect that the light house debts will be paid off by January 1, 1846.

We stand in great need of a new store, jail and court house. Our present jail is merely a log house, not secure nor large enough for our growing population. We have no court house at all; and I bring this subject before the Board for their consideration. I have one hundred perches of rock now quarried for this object.

From report there is likely to be some difficulty between Monrovia and the British cruisers on account of duties. Their trade vessels all declare that Commodore Jones orders them to pay no anchorage or duties at any of our ports. How matters are likely to terminate I know not. Some special instructions on this head are needed from the Board."

It is rumored that the prize crew of a slaver, on her way to Sierra Leone for adjudication, has been murdered by the Spaniards, who rose upon the captors. Having completed the work of death, they started on their way, but the next day one of H. B. M. cruisers fell in with and retook her. The Spaniards have been sent to England for trial.

MR. ADAM WEVER'S LETTER TO HIS SERVANTS.

We have been kindly furnished, by Mr. Caspar Wever, since his father's decease, with the following letter, written by him in his 85th year, on the occasion of the embarkation of fifteen of his servants for Cape Palmas in 1836. He subsequently sent three others, and at his decease made provision for the remainder to go out in the next expedition, paying their passage and furnishing each with a suitable outfit.

The spirit and tone of the letter is perfectly in keeping with the conduct of the man, and we cannot believe but that *such last words* of *such* a master and friend, solemnly reiterated from week to week, must have a permanent and abiding effect upon the conduct and character of those to whom they are addressed. There is something deeply solemn and affecting in the idea.

The letter and the course pursued by the writer is the best rebuke to the calumniators of colonizationists.

FREDERICK, MD., *July*, 1836.

TO THOMAS and FRANCES DAVENPORT, their CHILDREN and GRAND-CHILDREN.

My Friends—I have, until this time, sustained the responsibilities of a master towards you. Most of you have been born on my farm, and I have raised you all. I feel a very great interest in your welfare, and now that I have done all I can to secure that welfare to you and your posterity forever, by sending you to the land of your forefathers, where you can enjoy the rights of freemen. Hear my last words—lay to heart the advice I now give you. It comes from one more deeply interested in you than any other, and it is the result of my experience. If you follow it, freedom will indeed be a blessing to you; if not, it will only be a curse.

First, then, seek to know Jesus Christ and him crucified. Without religion you cannot enjoy happiness in this world, nor be prepared for it in the next.

Second—read your bible daily; and if you cannot read, get some one to read it for you.

Third—pray often; you have daily wants, therefore pray daily that they may be supplied. You commit sin daily, therefore pray daily that it may be forgiven, and in your prayers remember your old master.

Fourth—in your intercourse with others be kind, but never associate, intimately, with any one who is not pious or moral.

Fifth—be prudent, saving and industrious.

Sixth—be affectionate to one another. The best return you can make me for what good God has made me the instrument of towards you, is *to love one another*. Children, obey your parents, for this is right in the Lord. Keep together as a family as long as possible.

Seventh—respect yourselves and others will respect you. Act as you have seen the respectable and pious portion of the white people do in this country.

Eighth—read this letter, or have it read, once a week as long as you or any of you live. And now I commit you to the God of all grace. We are far from one another, and shall perhaps never meet again in this world, but if you put your trust in God, and endeavor to live according to his word, we shall meet in a few days or years to part no more, where there is no distinction of color or condition, but where all the ransomed of the Lord shall be clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

God bless you, my friends. Farewell.

Your old master,

ADAM WEVER.

"JOURNAL OF AN AFRICAN CRUISER."

This volume, which forms the first number of Messrs. Wiley & Putnam's "Library of American Books," has been some two months before the public, and has doubtless claimed the attention of many of our readers and of others interested in African affairs. To those who have read it, we have nothing to say; it bears an internal evidence of truths which would hardly be strengthened by our endorsement. To those who care to know any thing of the West Coast of Africa, and have not read it, we say, better go and get it, a half dollar cannot be better spent. But judging that there are many who have not read the book, and will not pick it out of the mass of reading now to be found in the shops, we take the liberty of commencing the publication of some extracts from it, which may be continued in future numbers of the Journal.

Of the merits of this work, as a literary production, we, of course, have nothing to say; that is *out of our line*. We are not able to give even the disinterested testimony of the birds in picking at the fruit on the canvass of the painter, for the great pleasure which the book afforded us might have been owing entirely to the deep interest we feel in all appertaining to Africa. But independent of the pleasure which the perusal of the work afforded, it is a source of the greatest satisfaction to us that such a work, written by such a man, has been published. There has been so much written and said concerning Liberia, by its friends and its foes—we have ourselves written and said so much, and been so often forced on the one hand to contradict the slanders of its enemies, and on the other to temper the indiscreet zeal of its friends and advocates, that it seems a God-send to have a man of respectability and standing, unbiased and unprejudiced, who has had ample opportunities for observation and the capacity to take notice and draw rational conclusions, we say, it seems a God-send to have such a man come out and bear testimony to the TRUTH. For as far as we can judge, the truth is freely and plainly told. Liberia is not an Eldorado—nor yet a Pandemonium.

The following extract from the author's preface is to the point:

"If, in any portion of the book, the anthor may hope to engage the attention of the public, it will probably be in those pages which treat of Liberia. The value of his evidence, as to the condition and prospects of that colony, must depend, not upon any singular acuteness of observation or depth of reflection, but upon his freedom from partizan bias, and his consequent ability to perceive a certain degree of truth, and inclination to express it frankly. A northern man, but not unacquainted with the slave institutions of our own and other countries—neither an Abolitionist nor a Colonizationist—without prejudice, as without prepossessions—he felt himself thus far qualified to examine the great enterprise which he beheld in progress. He enjoyed, moreover, the advantage of comparing Liberia, as he now saw it, with a personal observation of its condition three years before, and could therefore mark its onward or retreating footsteps, and the better judge what was permanent, and what merely temporary or accidental. With these qualifications, he may at least hope to have spoken so much of truth as entirely to gratify neither the friends nor enemies of this interesting colony."

It will be recollected that the writer of the book is a purser in the United States Navy, we believe, Mr. Bridge, of Maine, who went out in the African squadron, and remained on the coast some eighteen months, repeatedly, as will appear in our extracts, visiting the various colonies on the coast. We purpose to extract every word that is said concerning any of the Liberia colonies, or the character of the African climate, soil, &c. So if, as we said above, the book is truth, all truth relating to the colonies shall have the advantage of our limited circulation, and we trust the publishers will not consider this proceeding any infringement of their copyright.

We shall take the liberty of occasionally appending a note when we consider any thing like explanation necessary.

"*August* 1.—At 12, meridian, anchored at Cape Mesurado, off the town of Monrovia. We find at anchor here the U. States brig Porpoise, and a French barque, as well as a small schooner, bearing the Liberian flag. This consists of stripes and a cross, and may be regarded as emblematical of the American origin of the colony, and of the Christian philanthropy to which it owes its existence. Thirty or forty Kroomen came alongside. Three officers of the Porpoise visited us. All are anxious to get back to the United States. They coincide, however, in saying that, with simple precautions, the health of this station is as good as that of any other. They have had only a single case of fever on board; and, in that instance, the patient was a man who ran away, and spent a night ashore.

"My old acquaintance, Captain Cooper, came on board, and is to be employed as pilot.

"*August* 2.—We were visited by Governor Roberts, Doctor Day, and General Lewis, the latter being colonial secretary, and military chief of the settlement. They looked well, and welcomed me back to Liberia with the cordiality of old friendship. The Governor was received by the commodore, captain, and officers, and saluted with eleven guns. He and his suite dined in the cabin, and some of the officers of the Porpoise in the ward-room. In the evening, we brought out all our forces for the amusement of our distinguished guests. First, the negro band sang "Old Dan Tucker," "Jim along Josey," and other ditties of the same class, accompanied by violin and tambourine. Then Othello played monkey, and gave a series of recitations. The French cook sang with great spirit and skill. The entertainments of the evening, as the theatrical bills expressed it, concluded with Ma Normandie and other beautiful songs and airs well executed by the French cook, accompanied by Symmes on the violin, and a landsman on the flute.

"5.—Sailed for Cape Palmas, in company with the Porpoise.

"9.—Anchored at Cape Palmas. We were boarded by Kroomen, in eight or ten canoes. While the thermometer stood at 75 or 80 degrees, these naked boatmen were shivering, and seemed absolutely to suffer with cold; and such is the effect of the climate upon our own physical systems, that we find woollen garments comfortable at the same temperature.

"Visited and lunched with Governor Russwurm. Called on Mr. James, a colored missionary, now occupping the house of Mr. Wilson, who has lately removed to Gaboon river. Mr. James presented us with some ebony, and a few Grebo books. He informed us that the fever had visited him more or less severely, as often as once in four weeks during seven years. This may truly be called a feverish life! He is about to remove to Gaboon.

The Catholic Mission seems to have driven the Presbyterian from the ground. We called on Mr. Kelly, a Catholic priest from Baltimore, and

the only white man of the mission at present in Africa. Preparations, however, have already been made for twenty more, principally French, whose arrival is expected within a year, and who will establish themselves at different points along the coast. Mr. Kelly is now finishing a very commodious house, on a scale of some magnitude, with piazzas around the whole. There is evidently no lack of money. The funds for the support of the Catholic Mission are derived principally through Lyons, in France; and the enterprise is said to be under the patronage of the king. The abundant pecuniary means which the priests have at command, and the imposing and attractive ceremonies of their mode of worship—so well fitted to produce an effect on uncultivated natures, where appeals either to the intellect or the heart would be thrown away—are among the chief causes of their success. It is said, too, and perhaps with truth, that as many converts are made, among the natives, by presents, as by persuasion. But no small degree of the prosperity of the mission must be attributed to the superior shrewdness and ability of the persons engaged in it—to their skilful adaptation of their precepts and modes of instruction to the people with whom they have to deal, and to their employment of the maxims of worldly policy in aid of their religious views. These qualities and rules of conduct have characterized the Catholic missionaries in all ages, in all parts of the world, and in their dealings with every variety of the human race; and their success has everywhere been commensurate with the superiority, in a merely temporal point of view, of the system on which they acted.

"Before returning on board, we called on King Freeman, who received us, seated on a chair which was placed in front of his house. His majesty's royal robe was no other than an old uniform frock, which I had given him three years ago. We accepted the chairs which he offered us, and held a palaver, while some twenty of his subjects stood respectfully around. He remembered my former visit to the colony, and appeared very glad to see me again. His town was nearly deserted, the people having gone out to gather rice. About the royal residence, and in the vicinity, I saw thirty or forty cattle, most of them young, and all remarkably small. It is said, and I believe it to be a fact, that cattle, and even fowls, when brought from the interior, take the coast-fever, and often perish with it. Certain it is, that they do not flourish.

"11.—King Freeman came on board, dressed in his uniform frock, with two epaulettes, a red cap, and checked trowsers. He received some powder and bread from the Commodore, and some trifles from the ward-room.

"12.—Joe Davis brought his son on board to 'learn sense.' In pursuit of this laudable object, the young man is to make a cruise with us. The father particularly requested that his son might be flogged, saying, 'Spose you lick him, you gib him sense!' On such a system, a man-of-war is certainly no bad school of improvement.

"13.—A delightful day, clear sky, and cool breeze. We sailed from Cape Palmas yesterday, steering up the coast."

"*August* 14.—Passed near Sinoe, a colonial settlement, but did not show our colours. An English merchant brig was at anchor. Our pilot observed, that this settlement was not in a flourishing condition, because it received no great '*resistance*' from the Colonization Society. Of course, he meant to say, '*assistance;*' but there was an unintentional philosophy in the remark. Many plants thrive best in adversity.

"Anchored at the river Sesters, and sent a boat ashore. Two canoes paddled alongside, and their head-men came on board. One was a beautifully formed man, and walked the deck with a picturesque dignity of aspect and motion. He had more the movement of an Indian, than any negro I

ever saw. Two men were left in each boat, to keep her alongside, and wait the movements of their master. They kneel in the boat, and sit on their heels. When a biscuit is thrown to them, they put it on their thighs, and thence eat it at their leisure.

"16—Ashore at Monrovia. The buildings look dilapidated, and the wooden walls are in a state of decay. Houses of stone are coming into vogue. There is a large stone court-house, intended likewise for a legislative hall. What most interested me, was an African pony, a beautiful animal, snow white, with a head as black as ebony. I also saw five men chained together by the neck; three colonists and two natives, with an overseer superintending them.* They had been splitting stone for Government."

"*September* 8.—Ashore at Monrovia. It being Sunday, we attended the Methodist Church. Mr. Teage, editor of the Liberia Herald, preached an appropriate and well-written discourse, on occasion of admitting three men and a woman to church-membership. One of the males was a white, who had married a coloured woman in America, and came out to the colony with Mr. McDonough's people, some time ago. His wife being dead, he has married another woman of colour, and is determined to live and die here.

"10.—Dined with the Governor. Visited the house of a poor colonist, a woman with two children and no husband. She endeavours to support her family by washing. Two or three other women of the neighborhood dropped in. It is said that the proportion of female emigrants to males is as three and a half to one. Unless it be expected that these women are to work in the fields, it is difficult to imagine how they are to earn a subsistence. A little chance washing and sewing, not enough to employ one in ten, is all they have to depend upon. The consequence is, that every person, of even moderate means of living, has two or three women to feed and clothe. They do not need their services, but cannot let them starve. This is one of the drawbacks upon colonization.

"Even the able-bodied men are generally unfit for promoting the prosperity of the colony. A very large proportion of them are slaves, just liberated. Accustomed to be ruled and taken care of by others, they are no better than mere children, as respects the conduct and economy of life. In America, their clothes, food, medicines, and all other necessaries, have been furnished without a thought on their own part; and when sent to Liberia, with high notions of freedom and exemption from labor (ideas which with many are synonymous), they prove totally inadequate to sustain themselves. I perceive, in colonization reports, that the owners of slaves frequently offer to liberate them, on condition of their being sent to Liberia; and that the Society has contracted debts, and embarrassed itself in various ways, rather than let such offers pass. In my opinion, many of the slaves, thus offered, are of little value to the donors, and of even less to the cause of colonization. Better to discriminate carefully in the selection of emigrants, than to send out such numbers of the least eligible class, to become burdens upon the industrious and intelligent, who might otherwise enjoy comfort and independence. Many a colonist, at this moment, sacrifices his interest to his humanity, and feels himself kept back in life by the urgent claims of compassion.

"The Society allows to new emigrants provisions for six months. After that period, if unable to take care of themselves, they must either starve, or be supported by the charitable. Fifty young or middle-aged men, who had been accustomed to self-guidance in America, would do more to pro-

* Convicts.

mote the prosperity of the colony, than five hundred such emigrants as are usually sent out. The thievish propensity of many of the poor and indolent colonists is much complained of by the industrious. On this account, more than any other, it is difficult to raise stock. The vice has been acquired in America, and is not forgotten in Africa."

"19.—Anchored at Cape Palmas. This colony is independent of Liberia proper, and is under the jurisdiction and patronage of the Maryland State Colonization Society. Its title is Maryland in Liberia. The local government is composed of an agent and an assistant agent, both to be appointed by the Society at home, for two years; a secretary, to be appointed by the agent annually; and a vice-agent, two counsellors, a register, a sheriff, a treasurer, and a committee on new emigrants, to be chosen by the people. Several minor officers are appointed by the agent, who is entrusted with great powers. The judiciary consists of the agent, and a competent number of justices of the peace, who are appointed by him, and two of whom, together with the agent, constitute the Supreme Court. A single justice has jurisdiction in small criminal cases, and in all civil cases where the claim does not exceed twenty dollars.

"Male coloured people, at twenty years of age, are entitled to vote, if they hold land in their own right, or pay a tax of one dollar. Every emigrant must sign a pledge to support the constitution, and to refrain from the use of ardent spirits, except in case of sickness. By a provision of the constitution, emigration is never to be prohibited.

"Our boat attempted to land at some rocks, just outside of the port, in order to avoid crossing the bar; but as the tide was low, and the surf troublesome, we found it impracticable. I hate a bar; there is no fair play about it. The long rollers come in from the sea, and, in consequence of the shallowness of the water, seem to pile themselves up so as inevitably to overwhelm you, unless you have skilful rowers, a good helmsman, and a lively boat. At one moment, your keel, perhaps, touches the sand; the next, you are lifted upon a wave and borne swiftly along for many yards, while the men lie on their oars, or only pull an occasional stroke, to keep the boat's head right. Now they give way with a will, to escape a white-crested wave that comes trembling and roaring after them; and now again they cease rowing, or back water, awaiting a favourable moment to cross. Should you get into a trough of the sea, you stand a very pretty chance to be swamped, and have your boat rolled over and over upon its crew; while, perchance, a hungry shark may help himself to a leg or arm.

"Pulling across this ugly barrier, we landed at the only wharf of which the colony can boast. There is here a stone warehouse, but of no great size. In front of it lay a large log, some thirty feet long, on which twelve or fourteen full grown natives were roosting, precisely like turkeys on a pole. They are accustomed to sit for hours together in this position, resting upon their heels. A girl presented us with a note, informing all whom it might concern, that Mrs. —— would do our washing; but, as the ship's stay was to be short, we turned our attention to—the cattle, of which a score or two were feeding in the vicinity. They are small, but, having been acclimated, are sleek and well-conditioned. As I have before observed, it is a well-established fact, that all four-footed emigrants are not less subject to the coast fever than bipeds. Horses, cattle, and even fowls, whether imported or brought from the interior to the coast, speedily sicken, and often die.

"I dined with Mr. Russwurm, the colonial agent, a man of distinguished ability and of collegiate education. He gave me some monkey-skins and other curiosities, and favoured me with much information respecting the

establishment. The mean temperature of the place is eighty degrees of Fahrenheit, which is something less than that of Monrovia, on account of its being more open to the sea. The colony comprises six hundred and fifty inhabitants, all of whom dwell within four miles of the Cape. Besides the settlement of Harper, situated on the Cape itself, there is that of Mount Tubman (named in honour of Mr. T. of Georgia), which lies beyond Mount Vaughan, and three and a half miles from Cape Palmas. There is no road to the interior of the country, except a native path. The agent, with a party of twenty, recently penetrated about seventy miles into the Bush, passing through two tribes, and coming to a third, of large numbers and strength. The king of the latter tribe has a large town, where many manufactures are carried on, such as iron implements and wooden furniture of various kinds. He refused Mr. Russwurm an escort, alleging that there was war, but sent his son to the coast, to see the *black-white* people and their improvements.

"A large native tribe, the Grebo, dwells at Cape Palmas in the midst of the colonists. Their conical huts, to the number of some hundreds, present the most interesting part of the scene. Opposite the town, upon an uninhabited island at no great distance, the dead are exposed, clad in their best apparel, and furnished with food, cloth, crockery, and other articles. A canoe is placed over the body. The island of the dead is called by a name, which, in the plainest of English, signifies 'Go-to-Hell;' a circumstance that seems to imply very gloomy anticipations as to the fate of their deceased brethren, on the part of these poor Grebos. As a badge of mourning, they wear cloth of dark blue, instead of gayer colours. Dark blue is universally, along the coast, the hue indicative of mourning."

October 22—At Sinoe. Mr. Morris, the principal man of the settlement, came on board, in order to take passage with us to Monrovia. He informs us that there are but seventy-two colonists here at present, but that nearly a hundred are daily expected. Such an accession of strength is much needed; for the natives in the vicinity are powerful, and not very friendly, and the colony is too weak to chastise them. Our appearance has caused them some alarm. This is the place where the mate of an Ameican vessel was harpooned, some months since, by the Fishmen. We shall hold a palaver about it, when the Commodore joins us.

We left Sinoe at 7 o'clock, P.M.

23. Mr. Morris has been narrating the circumstances of the murder of the American mate, at Sinoe, in reference to which we are to 'set a palaver.' 'Palaver,' by-the-by, is probably a corruption of the Portuguese word 'Palabra.' As used by the natives, it has many significations, among which is that of an open quarrel. To 'set a palaver,' is to bring it to a final issue, either by talking or fighting.

"The story of the murder is as follows. A Fishman agreed to go down the coast with Captain Burke, who paid him his wages in advance; on receiving which, the fellow jumped overboard, and escaped. The captain then refused to pay the sums due to two members of the same tribe, unless the first should refund the money. Finding the threat insufficient, he endeavoured to entice these two natives on board his vessel, by promises of payment, but ineffectually. Meanwhile, the mate going ashore with a colonist, his boat was detained by the natives, during the night, but given up the next morning, at the intercession of the inhabitants. The mate returned on board, in a violent rage, and sent a sailor to catch a Fishman, on whom to take vengeance. But the man caught a Tartar, and was himself taken ashore as prisoner. The mate and cook then went out in a boat, and were attacked by a war-canoe, the men in which harpooned the cook, and strip-

ping the mate naked, threw him overboard. They beat the poor fellow off, as he attempted to seize hold of the canoe, and, after torturing him for some time, at length harpooned him in the back. Captain Burke, having but one man and two passengers left, made sail, and got away as fast as possible.

"23.—Arrived at Monrovia, where we find the Porpoise, with six native prisoners on board, who were taken at Berebee, as being concerned in the murder of Captain Farwell and his crew, two years ago. To accomplish their capture, the Porpoise was disguised as a barque, with only four or five men visible on deck, and these in Scotch caps and red shirts, so as to resemble the crew of a merchant-vessel. The first canoe approached, and Prince Jumbo stepped boldly up the brig's side, but started back into his boat, the moment that he saw the guns and martial equipment on deck. The Kroomen of the Porpoise, however, jumped into the water and upset the canoe, making prisoners of the four natives whom it contained. Six or eight miles further along the coast, the brig being under sail, another canoe came off with two natives, who were likewise secured. The Kroomen begged to be allowed to kill the prisoners, as they were of a hostile tribe.

"28.—Leaving the ship in one of our boats, pulled by Kroomen, we crossed the bar at the mouth of the Mesurado, and in ten minutes afterwards, were alongside of the colonial wharf. Half-a-dozen young natives and colonists issued from a small house to watch our landing; but their curiosity was less intrusive and annoying, than would have been that of the same number of New York boys, at the landing of a foreign man-of-war's boat. On our part, we looked around us with the interest which even common-place objects possess for those, whose daily spectacle is nothing more varied than the sea and sky. Even the most ordinary shore-scenery becomes captivating, after a week or two on shipboard. Two colonists were sawing plank in the shade of the large stone store-house of the colony. Ascending the hill, we passed the printing-office of the Liberia Herald, where two workmen were printing the colonial laws. The publication of the newspaper had been suspended for nearly three months, to enable them to accomplish work of more pressing importance. Proceeding onward, we came to the Governor's house, and were received with that gentleman's usual courtesy. The house is well furnished, and arranged for a hot climate; it is situated near the highest point of the principal street, and commands from its piazza a view of most of the edifices in Monrovia town.

"The fort is on the highest ground in the village, one hundred feet above the sea; it is of stone, triangular in shape, and has a good deal the appearance of an American pound for cattle, but is substantial, and adequate for its intended purposes. From this point, the street descends in both directions. About fifty houses are in view. First, the Government House, opposite to which stand the neat dwellings of Judge Benedict and Doctor Day. Further on, you perceive the largest house in the village, erected by Rev. Mr. Williams, of the Methodist mission. On the right is a one story brick house, and two or three wooden ones. A large stone edifice, intended for a Court House and Legislative Hall, has recently been completed. The street itself is wide enough for a spacious pasture, and affords abundance of luxuriant grass, through which run two or three well-trodden foot-paths. Apart from the village, on the Cape, we discerned the light-house, the base of which is about two hundred feet above the sea.

"We dined to-day at the New Hotel. The dinner was ill-cooked (an unpardonable fault at Monrovia, where good cooks, formerly in the service of our southern planters, might be supposed to abound), and not served up in proper style. But there was abundance to eat and drink. Though the keeper of the house is a clergyman and a temperance man, ale, porter,

wine, and cherry-brandy, are to be had at fair prices. Three years ago, a tavern was kept here in Monrovia by a Mr. Cooper, whose handbill set forth, that 'nothing was more repugnant to his feelings than to sell ardent spirits,'—but added—'if gentlemen *will* have them, the following is the price.' Of course, after such a salvo, Mr. Cooper pocketed the profits of his liquor-trade with a quiet conscience. He used to tell me that a little brandy was good for the 'suggestion;' but I fear that he made, in his own person, too large a demand upon its suggestive properties; for his house is now untenanted and ruinous, and he himself has carried his tender conscience to another settlement.

"30.—Went ashore in the second cutter. The Kroomen managed her so bunglingly, that, on striking the beach, she swung broadside to the sea. In this position, a wave rolled into her, half-filled the boat, and drenched us from head to foot. Apprehending that she would roll over upon us, and break our limbs, or backs, we jumped into the water, and waded ashore.

"While in the village, I visited the Court House, to hear the trial of a cause involving an amount of eight hundred dollars. Governor Roberts acted as judge, and displayed a great deal of dignity in presiding, and much wisdom and good sense in his decision. This is the highest court of the colony. There are no regularly educated lawyers in Liberia, devoting themselves exclusively to the profession; but the pleading seems to be done principally by the medical faculty. Two doctors were of counsel in the case alluded to, and talked of Coke, Blackstone, and Kent, as learnedly as if it had been the business of their lives to unravel legal mysteries. The pleadings were simple, and the arguments brief, for the judge kept them strictly to the point. An action for slander was afterwards tried, in which the damages were laid at one hundred dollars. One of the medico-jurisconsults opened the cause with an appeal to the feelings, and wrought his own sensibilities to such a pitch as to declare, that, though his client asked only for one hundred dollars, he considered the jury bound in conscience to give him two. The doctor afterwards told me that he had walked eighty miles to act as counsel in this court. A tailor argued stoutly for the defendant, but with little success; his client was fined twenty dollars.

"On our return, a companion and myself took passage for the ship in a native canoe. These little vessels are scooped out of a log, and are of even less size and capacity than the birch canoes of our Indians, and so light that two men, using each a single hand, may easily carry them from place to place. Our weight caused the frail bark to sit so deep in the water, that, before reaching the ship, we underwent another drenching. Three changes of linen in one day are altogether too expensive and troublesome.

"*November* 1.—Went up the St. Paul's river on a pleasure excursion, with the Governor, and several men of lesser note. We touched at the public farm, and found only a single man in charge. The sugar-cane was small in size, was ill-weeded, and, to my eye, did not appear flourishing. The land is apparently good and suitable, but labour is deficient, and my impressions were not favourable in regard to the manner of cultivation. The mill was exposed to the atmosphere, and the kettles were full of foul water. We landed likewise at New Georgia, a settlement of recaptured Africans. There was here a pretty good appearance, both of people and farms. We called also at Caldwell, a rich tract of level land, of which a space of about two miles is cultivated by comfortable and happy looking colonists. A very pleasant dinner was furnished by the Governor at what was once a great slave station, and the proprietor of which is still hostile to the colonists, and to both English and Americans, for breaking up the trade. We saw several alligators. One of them, about three feet in length, lay on a log, with his month wide open, catching flies.

"From the whole course of my observation, I cannot but feel satisfied that the colonists are better off here than in America. They are more independent, as healthy, and much happier. Agriculture will doubtless be their chief employment, but, for years to come, the cultivation of sugar cane cannot be carried to any considerable extent. There are many calls upon the resources of the Colonization Society and the inhabitants, more pressing, and which promise a readier and greater return. A large capital should be invested in the business, in order to render it profitable. The want of a steam-mill, to grind the cane, has been severely felt. Ignorance of the most appropriate soil, and of the most productive kind of cane, and the best methods of planting and grinding it, have likewise contributed to retard the cultivation of sugar. But the grand difficulty is the want of a ready capital, and the high price of labour. The present wages of labour are from sixty to seventy-five cents per day. The natives refuse to work among the canes, on account of the prickly nature of the leaves, and the irritating property of a gum that exudes from them. Yet it may be doubted whether the colony will ever make sugar to any important extent, unless some method be found to apply native labour to that purpose. Private enterprise is no more successful than the public efforts. A plantation has been commenced at Millsburg, and prosecuted with great diligence, but with no auspicious results. Sugar has been made, indeed, but at a cost of three times as much, per pound, as would have purchased it.

"Hitherto, the plantations of coffee trees have not succeeded well. Coffee, it is true, is sometimes exported from Liberia; and doubtless the friends of colonization drink it with great gusto, as an earnest of the progress of their philanthropic work. The cup, however, will be less grateful to their taste, when they learn that nearly all this coffee is procured at the islands of St. Thomas and St. Prince's, in the Bight of Benin, and entered as the produce of Liberia, *ad captandum.* The same game has been played in England, by entering their coffee as from Sierre Leone or Gambia, to entitle it to the benefit of the lower duties on colonial produce. But the English custom-house officers are now aware of the deception, and the business is abandoned.

"The mode of forming a coffee-plantation is simply to go into the woods (where the tree abounds), select the wild coffee-tree, and transport it into the prepared field. The indigenous coffee-tree of Liberia produces fruit of a superior quality, larger and finer flavoured, than that of the West Indies. But the cultivation, I think, is conducted upon wrong principles. Instead of having large plantations, with no other vegetables on the land, let every man intermingle a few coffee trees with the corn, cassada, and other vegetables in his garden or fields. These few trees, having the benefit of the hoeing and manuring bestowed on the other crops, will produce much more abundantly and with less trouble, than by separate culture. In fact, after setting out the trees, there will be no trouble, except that of gathering and preparing the berries for market. In this burning climate, the shade afforded by the tree will be beneficial to most vegetables.

The want of success hitherto in the cultivation of coffee has been attributed by some to the custom of transplanting the trees from the forest, instead of raising them from seed. The colonial Secretary is now making trial of the latter method. He has several thousand young trees in his nursery, and will soon be able to test the comparative efficiency of the different systems. Not improbably the cultivation of seedlings may be found preferable to that of transplated trees; but, in my opinion, the great obstacle to success has been the deficiency of care and proper manuring. In order to bear well, trees require to have the ground enriched, and kept free

from weeds. Failing this, the plant often dies, and never flourishes so well as in its native woods. The inhabitants of Liberia have not the means of bestowing the requisite care upon the cultivation of coffee on an extended scale; and I say boldly, that large plantations, in that region, cannot compete with those of Brazil and the West Indies, where the plantations are well stocked and cultivated by slave labor. Free labor in Africa will not soon be so cheap as that of slaves in other countries. Even in Cuba the planters can barely feed themselves and their slaves by the culture of coffee. How, then, can it be made profitable in Liberia, where labor commands so high a price, and is often impossible to be procured?

As incidental, however, to other branches of agriculture, coffee may be advantageously raised. The best trees are those seen in gardens, where, from ten or twelve, more berries are gathered than from hundreds in a plantation. A single tree, in the garden of Colonel Hicks, is said to have produced sixteen pounds at a gathering; and I have seen several very fine trees in similar situations. Fifty or a hundred trees, well selected, and properly distributed through the fields, would yield several hundred pounds of coffee, which, being gathered and dried by the women and children, would be gratuitous as regards the cost of labor. Thus, the coffee culture in Liberia must be considered far more more eligible than that of sugar; inasmuch as the latter requires a large capital and extensive operations, while the former succeeds best on a very moderate scale.

Judge Benedict has probably bestowed more attention on this business than any other person in Liberia. He is a man of excellent sense and information, and has the means to carry out his views, as well as the patriotism to exert himself for the advantage of the commonwealth. With these qualifications, he has employed five or six years in the experiment of raising coffee, and thus far with little success, although his plantation comprises some thousands of growing trees. In the spring of 1841 he made presents to myself and other officers of genuine Liberian coffee, in small native bags, containing two or three pounds each. The Judge is still giving away little bags of the same kind; but I do not yet learn that his crop is more than sufficient for his own use, and for distribution as specimens; certainly it is not so abundant as to render the sale of it an object. As for the plantation itself, I must confess that it appeared to me more flourishing three years ago than at present. Most of the trees on the spot originally planted are dead, and the rest in a sickly condition; while the most thriving trees are to be seen on the lower and damper land adjacent, which, at my former visit, was covered with a dense forest. Beyond a doubt, the coffee tree is as well adapted to this soil and climate as to those of Cuba, and produces a larger and better flavored berry; but I repeat my opinion, that the Liberian, hiring laborers at sixty cents a day, cannot compete with the West Indian, who has his hundreds of slaves already paid for, and his trees growing in well-weeded land. The mere feeding, I might almost say, of a dozen laborers in Liberia, will cost more than all the coffee they raise would re-imburse at the Cuba prices.

The cultivation of rice is universal in Africa. The natives never neglect it for fear of famine. For an upland crop, the rice-lands are turned over and planted in March and April. In September and October the rice is reaped, beaten out, and cleaned for market or storing. The lowland crop, on the contrary, is planted in September, October and November, in marshy lands, and harvested in March and April. Lands will not produce two successive crops without manuring and ploughing. About two bushels of seed are sown to the acre, and the crop, on the acre of the upland, is about thirty bushels, and from forty to forty-five bushels on the lowlands. The rice is

transported to market on the backs of natives, packed in bundles of about three feet long and nine inches in diameter. The wrappers are made of large leaves, bound together by cords of bark. The load is sustained by shoulder-straps, and by a band passing round the forehead of the bearer.

Cassada is a kind of yam, and sends up a tall stalk, with light green leaves. It has a long root, looking like a piece of wood with the brown bark on; the interior is white and mealy, rather insipid, but nutritious, and invaluable as an article of food. It is raised from the seed, root or stem; the latter being considered preferable. Its yield is very great. In six months, it is fit to dig, and may be preserved fifteen or eighteen months in the ground, but ceases to be eatable in three or four days after being dug. Tapioca is manufactured from this root.

Indian corn is planted in May and harvested in September; or, if planted in July, it ripens in November and December. Sweet potatoes constitute one of the main reliances of the colonists; they are raised from seeds, roots or vines, but most successfully from the latter. The season of planting is in May or June, and the crop ripens four months later. Plantains and bananas are a valuable product; they are propagated from suckers, which yield a first crop in about a year. The top is cut down, and new stalks spring from the root. Ground nuts are the same article peddled by the old women at our street corners under the name of pea-nuts; so called from the close resemblence of the bush to the tops of the sweet pea. This nut is used in England for making oil. The Cocoa is a bulbous root of the size of a tea-cup, and has some similarity to the artichoke. Pine-apples, small, but finely flavored, grow wild in the woods, and are abundant in their season.

In concluding these very imperfect and miscellaneous observations on the agriculture and products of Liberia, it may be remarked that the farmer's life and modes of labor are different from those of the same class in other countries; inasmuch as there is here no spring, autumn or winter. The year is a perpetual summer; therein, if in nothing else, resembling the climate of the original Paradise, to which men of all colors look back as the birth-place of their species. The culture of the soil appears to be emphatically the proper occupation of the Liberians. Many persons have anticipated making money more easily by trade; but being unaccustomed to commercial pursuits, and possessing but little capital, by far the greater number soon find themselves bankrupt, and burthened with debt. With these evidences of the inequality, on their part, of competition with vessels trading on the coast, and with the established traders of the colony, the inhabitants are now turning their attention more exclusively to agriculture.

(From Africa's Luminary.)

JAMAICA vs. LIBERIA.

It had been rumored abroad, upon what good authority we know not, that the citizens of this Commonwealth were very generally dissatisfied with their condition. That they had been so deceived and inveighled by the friends of the colony in the United States—the advantages of immigration to this place so overrated and magnified to them by all those abetting the scheme—and the disappointment, mortification and sufferings of the colonists so great, as to make any method of retreat from the place acceptable to them.

Since the abolition of slavery in the English West Indies the large landed estates of the planters have fallen very much in value and productiveness from the want of cultivators of the soil—there being nothing with which coercion could supply, in the fields of the planter, the place of the slave—obliging such substitute, whatever it might be, with or without pay, to take

his wretched condition and perform his services. To meet this exigency without paying a full and honest equivalent for labor has been an occasion for displaying all the legislative talent and political craft that the owners of these landed estates could possibly bring to the question.

The rumor of the dissatisfaction and sufferings of the colonists reaching them, no doubt suggested the benevolent idea of coming to their aid and relieving their sufferings, by sending a vessel and transporting the sufferers to the quiet felicities of their cane, coffee and cotton fields, where, in necessary dependence upon their liege employers, engaged in unambitious labor, they might no longer be in danger from the arts and toils of former seducers, to the colony of Liberia.

We say *benevolent idea*, and we think with unquestionable propriety, as what is more justly entitled to this epithet than an attempt to relieve suffering? And besides, the Rev. Mr. Hugh Nelson, who accepted an agency in the service of the transporters, was known in several of his conversations to give to the enterprise of the planters committed to his agency such a sort of coloring.

The measure, however, might have succeeded better had not the wrong man have been selected for an agent. It was not because Mr. Nelson was not *known* among us; the fact is, many persons, both colonists and foreigners, had been constrained to know him *too well*. There are periods in men's lives sometimes when a little agency so, where the pay is likely to be good, is thought of sufficient importance to render them quite officious in procuring it; and if they succeed, after some maneuvering, in so far gaining the attention of those they adulate as to receive their appointment, the suitor subsequently considers himself quite a consequential. We have no doubt but Mr. Nelson esteemed an agency a convenience just at the time he was called to the honorable service upon which he came among us; as, without the least question, $50 per month, good pay, was preferable to shoving the plane in Jamaica as wages are there, or peddling salt-fish at two or three cents a piece.

However, in the latter part of 1843 the vessel came, and with it Mr. Nelson, representative of the prices of labor, vegetables, pork, beef, fish, &c.; representative of the sugar, coffee and cotton fields of Jamaica; the circumstances of rural and cottage life under the auspices of Jamaica capitalists; bearing documents official and *diplomatique*, accrediting him to the people of Liberia. Unrestrained admission was had to all the places he thought it pertinent to visit, with as free permission to disclose to their anxious hearts the joyous tidings of which he was the official depository. He was certainly industrious. To every one into whose face he could look, as he opened the objects of his mission, and whom he did not *owe*, he set forth the superior policy of those who saw the propriety of an immediate abandonment of Liberia for the plantations of Jamaica. Oh it was a place offering to a colored man almost every thing that his perturbed feelings and expiring hopes could desire. Some evils existed, of course, but they were soon lost sight of in the great preponderance of facilities presenting themselves to every refugee fleeing to that asylum for the oppressed.

Nor did he labor in vain. After several successive weeks of continuous effort, and the Jamaica converts were to be brought together preparatory to their sailing, they mustered some eight or ten strong—including men, women and children; one old woman upwards of a hundred years old, and whom it was thought best to leave at Sierra Leone. *Bacon* was cheaper there, it was said, than here. *Rum*, too, could be had at almost any price. These two were powerful arguments; and they had the effect just noted. But, however this might be, with the solitary exception of the one from

whose plain, unvarnished statement the extract below is taken, we could very conveniently spare them.

They went, and after a faithful trial to find what they went in search of, without obtaining it, as expected, they write back to their friends in this place. The following, from a letter dated Anatoboy, Jamaica, August 24, 1844, are consecutive extracts. We would bespeak for it a careful perusal, so that, should other agents come, recommending a similar adventure, we may be prepared to answer him with less hesitation.

"There is every thing here to eat that the human heart can desire of American produce, and all at a lower rate than with you, especially butter, hogs and ham. There is all kinds of the best vegetables here that I ever saw, both of the torrid and temperate zones. Ground provisions and vegetables are some dearer here than at home. And well may I say *home*, for it calls brighter days to mind. The ground, generally speaking, produces finely. Since the emancipation of the slaves, the sugar estates owned by foreigners are all in a state of ruin for the want of laborers. Some of the emancipated slaves own some little property. There is greater equality, generally speaking, between whites and blacks than you would expect. The mulatto and white men unite very much; but they are nothing in number to be compared with the blacks. Wages are low and times hard at this time, and money scarce. The planters are in a miserable condition at this time. There is a considerable fall in the price of coffee, and if Europe does not protect them, they will have to turn their attention to something else. They are calling meetings on every side, praying Parliament to not let slave grown articles in their market without laying a heavy duty on them. * *

I would not for a moment advise any of my friends to come here, for land is beyond reach, and all other property very dear. The smallest kind of a common house rents for $5 per month. You who have your thatched houses, make yourselves happy, and try to rear your colony in the fear of God, and improve your societies; for this is the most abominable place I ever saw. There is no society here whatever. Two days ago there was a man dropped dead from a horse through drunkenness. A few days before that there was a man found dead on the road side—verdict: brought to his death by intoxication. There are several similar circumstances to this. The quantity of rum drank here is beyond limit By the help of the Lord I hope to reach home some day. This is a miserable and adulterous hole."

The Rev. James Higgins, of the Methodist Episcopal church, has been appointed travelling agent of the Maryland State Colonization Society, and is now on a tour through the lower western counties of the State. From the high recommendations of Mr. Higgins as a man and christian minister, the Board of Managers are led to hope the best results from his labors.

FOURTH JULY COLLECTIONS.

1845.

Sept. 6.	Received from Wesley Chapel, Sharp street, ...	$7 12
" 24.	" from Holy Trinity and Ascension Parishes, Carrol co. .	4 00

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